## BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF	)
PACIFICORP FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING	) CASE NO. PAC-E-02-5
A CHANGE IN DEPRECIATION RATES	)
APPLICABLE TO ELECTRIC PROPERTY	) NOTICE OF INTERVENTION
	) DEADLINE
	) NOTICE OF STAFF INTENT TO ) ENGAGE IN SETTLEMENT ) DISCUSSIONS
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On October 1, 2002, PacifiCorp dba Utah Power & Light Company (PacifiCorp; Company) filed an Application with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (Commission) seeking an Order authorizing a change in the depreciation rates applicable to PacifiCorp's depreciable electric property. This change, the Company states, is for accounting purposes only. PacifiCorp intends to seek approval of the requested changes for ratemaking purposes in a future rate case. Pursuant to *Idaho Code* § 61-525, the Commission is empowered to determine the proper depreciation rates of property used to provide retail electric service.

## THE APPLICATION

The accounting changes proposed in the Application are supported by a Depreciation Study ("D&T Study") prepared by Deloitte & Touche LLP. The purpose of the D&T Study was to identify the changes that have occurred since the last PacifiCorp depreciation study, to measure the effect of the changes on the recovery of presently surviving capital, and to properly revise the capital recovery rate. If approved, the proposed depreciation rate changes will decrease the annual depreciation expense by \$732,000 on a total Company basis. The composite depreciation rate of 3.11% for the Company's electric plant will not change. Based on depreciable plant balances as of March 31, 2002, the proposed changes specific to the Idaho jurisdiction would increase the depreciation expense by approximately \$612,0000.

On November 8, 2002, the Commission issued a Notice of Application in Case No. PAC-E-02-5. The Notice contained the following language:

In order to efficiently review the Application, Staff recommends that the Commission wait to establish further procedure for processing this case

NOTICE OF INTERVENTION DEADLINE NOTICE OF STAFF INTENT TO ENGAGE IN SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS 1 until the depreciation rate issue is more fully developed at the multi-state level. The Commission has been apprised that this proposed procedure is acceptable to the Company.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that since November 2002 multi-state discussions regarding the proposed change in PacifiCorp depreciated rates have continued. Commission Staff has reviewed the depreciation study and identified issues. Staff informs the Commission that the Company and parties in Utah have agreed in principal to the terms of a proposed settlement. Staff has sat in on some of the discussions and believes that it is now appropriate to provide further notice of procedure in the Company's Idaho jurisdiction. Staff recommends that the Commission establish a deadline for intervention and further apprises the Commission of Staff's intent to schedule a public workshop, once interested parties are identified, to engage in active settlement discussions. Reference Rule 272 Commission Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.272.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons desiring to intervene in Case No. PAC-E-02-05 for the purpose of becoming a party, i.e., to present evidence, to acquire the rights of cross-examination, to participate in settlement or negotiation conferences, and to make and argue motions must file a Petition to Intervene with the Commission pursuant to Rules of Procedure 72 and 73 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.072 and -073. The deadline for filing Petitions to Intervene in this case is Friday, April 11, 2003.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons desiring to present their views without parties' rights of participation and cross-examination are not required to intervene and may present their comments without prior notification to the Commission or to other parties.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission has been apprised by Commission Staff of Staff's intent to engage in active settlement discussions in Case No. PAC-E-02-5. IDAPA 31.01.01.272. Pursuant to Rule 276 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the Commission is not bound by settlements. The Commission will independently review any settlement proposed to it to determine whether the settlement is just, fair and reasonable, in the public interest, or otherwise in accordance with law or regulatory policy.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that discovery is available in Case No. PAC-E-02-5 pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.221-234. PacifiCorp requests that all data requests to the Company regarding this matter be sent to:

By e-mail (preferred): datarequest@PacifiCorp.com

By facsimile: (503) 813-6060

By mail: Data Request Response Center

**PacifiCorp** 

825 NE Multnomah, Ste. 800

Portland, OR 97232

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this case will be held pursuant to the Commission's jurisdiction under Title 61 of the Idaho Code and that the Commission may enter any final Order consistent with its authority under Title 61. All proceedings in this matter will be conducted pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 et seq.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all hearings, workshops and settlement discussions in this matter will be held in facilities meeting the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Persons needing the help of a sign language interpreter or other assistance in order to participate in or to understand testimony and argument at a public hearing may ask the Commission to provide a sign language interpreter or other assistance at the hearing. The request for assistance must be received at least five (5) working days before the hearing by contacting the Commission Secretary at:

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION PO BOX 83720 BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0074 (208) 334-0338 (Telephone) (208) 334-3762 (FAX) E-Mail: secretary@puc.state.id.us

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all communications with reference to this Application should be served upon the Commission and the following representatives of PacifiCorp.

COMMISSION SECRETARY IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION PO BOX 83720 BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0074

Street Address for Express Mail:

472 W WASHINGTON ST BOISE, ID 83702-5983 D. DOUGLAS LARSON, VICE PRESIDENT-REGULATION
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All communications should contain the case caption and case number shown on the first page of this document.

Persons desiring to submit comments via e-mail in this case may do so by accessing the Commission's home page located at <a href="www.puc.state.id.us">www.puc.state.id.us</a>. Click the "Comments and Questions" icon, and complete the comment form, using the case number as it appears on the front of this document. These comments must also be sent to the Applicant at the e-mail address(es) listed above.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Application in Case No. PAC-E-02-5 can be reviewed at the Commission's office and at the Idaho offices of PacifiCorp in Rexburg, Preston, Shelley and Montpelier during regular business hours. The Application and testimonies (excluding exhibits) are also available on the Commission's Website at <a href="www.puc.state.id.us">www.puc.state.id.us</a> under "File Room."

DATED at Boise, Idaho this 24th day of March 2003.

Jean D. Jewell () Commission Secretary

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